



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held May 20, 2008, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“Juvenile probationers placed in group homes by the Probation Department Absence Without Leave (AWOL) from those placements at an unacceptable rate. Not only are AWOL minors a risk to public safety, but they also pose a safety risk to themselves. This is most recently illustrated by the minor who was found dead on May 8, 2008 while AWOL from a suitable placement order for ten days.

“Although the Probation Department has the systems capability to track all minors under its custody it does not have a dedicated unit to perform consistent due diligence to locate those minors who have AWOL'd from group homes and/or are on bench warrant status in the community. As a result, some minors have been AWOL from their placements for great lengths of time.

“It is critical that the Probation Department focus attention on this population of youth. Not only does locating these youth ensure that they receive the vital health, mental health, education and supportive services they need to successfully reintegrate into our communities, but it also reduces the risk to our communities.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer to work in conjunction with the Chief Probation Officer to accomplish the following:
 - Conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing Absence Without Leave (AWOL) policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, factors such as the status of all AWOL minors and a determination of the length of time each minor has been AWOL; and

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- Work with the Director of Children and Family Services (DCSF) to perform a thorough review of the existing Department of Children and Family Services' Runaway Adolescent Program's policies and procedures in order to identify best practices which can be implemented at the Probation Department in order to enhance its current model for dealing with AWOL minors;
2. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer to work in concert with County Counsel, the Director of Children and Family Services, the Coroner, and the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, to incorporate and/or replicate Department of Children and Family Services' current child death notification process(es) to the Board in all instances involving the death of minors under the care or supervision of the Probation Department; and
 3. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Probation Officer to report back to the Board within 60 days with findings and recommendations for improved policies and procedures at the Probation Department.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
Chief Probation Officer
Coroner
County Counsel
Director of Children and Family Services
Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council
on Child Abuse and Neglect